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BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD. 1001 G STREET, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4597			HUNTER, ALVIN A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3711	

DATE MAILED: 07/21/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	10/615,934	STITES ET AL.
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>
	Alvin A. Hunter	3711

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 July 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-70 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-70 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.   |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/06/2003</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
|   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.                                   |

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-16, 24, 25, 27-33, 35, 38, 41-43, 45-51, 55-61, and 63-69 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wettlaufer (USPN 2171383).

Regarding claim 1, Wettlaufer discloses a golf club head comprising a face 14 that provides a contact area for engaging a golf ball; and a weight positioning system that includes a support 31 and a weight made of elements 30 and 39, the weight being movable along the support and around the support to vary a position of a center of gravity of the golf club head with respect to the face (See Figures 2, 4, and 5, and Page 2, lines 27 through 31).

Regarding claim 2, Wettlaufer discloses the golf club head including a shell, wherein the face is a portion of the shell (See Figure 2 and 4).

Regarding claim 3, Wettlaufer discloses the shell defines an aperture wherein the weight positioning system is removable from an interior 16 of the shell through the aperture (See Figure 4).

Regarding claim 5, Wettlaufer discloses the weight positioning system including a connector 31 configured to connect the weight positioning system to the shell.

Regarding claim 6, Wettlaufer discloses the support is positioned in a substantially vertical orientation (See Figure 4).

Regarding claim 7, Wettlaufer discloses the weight positioning system including a locking mechanism that secures a position of the weight relative to the support (See Figure 4).

Regarding claim 8, Wettlaufer discloses the locking mechanism being a pair of locking rings that extend around the support (See Figure 4).

Regarding claim 9, Wettlaufer discloses the support and the locking rings including corresponding threads (See Figure 4).

Regarding claim 10, Wettlaufer discloses the locking rings positioned on opposite sides of the weight (See Figure 4).

Regarding claim 11, Wettlaufer inherently disclose a center of gravity of the weight being offset from a centerline of the support.

Regarding claim 13, Wettlaufer discloses the weight defining an opening that extends at least partially around the support (See Figure 5).

Regarding claim 14, Wettlaufer discloses a center of gravity of the weights being offset from the opening.

Regarding claim 15, Wettlaufer discloses one of an indentation and a protrusion extending along the support, and another of the indentation and the protrusion being positioned within the opening, the indentation receiving the protrusion to limit movement of the weight around the support (See Figure 4).

Regarding claim 16, Wettlaufer discloses the weight being independently movable along the support and independently movable around the support (See Page 2, lines 27 through 31).

Regarding claim 24, Wettlaufer discloses a golf club head comprising a shell having a face that provides a contact area for engaging a golf ball; and a weight positioning system substantially located on an interior of the shell, the weight positioning system including a support, and a weight movably-connected to the support, the weight being movable along the support to vary a position of a center of gravity of the golf club head in first direction with respect to the face, and the support being movable around the support to vary the position of the center of gravity of the golf club head in a second direction with respect to the face (See Figures 2, 4, and 5, and Page 2, lines 27 through 31).

Regarding claim 25, Wettlaufer discloses the weight being independently movable along the support and independently movable around the support See Page 2, lines 27 through 31).

Regarding claim 27, Wettlaufer discloses the weight positioning system including a locking mechanism that secures a position of the weight relative to the support (See Figure 4).

Regarding claim 28, Wettlaufer discloses the locking mechanism being a pair pf locking rings that extend around the support (See Figure 4).

Regarding claim 29, Wettlaufer discloses the support and the locking rings including corresponding threads (See Figure 4).

Regarding claim 30, Wettlaufer inherently discloses a center of gravity of the weight being offset from a centerline of the support.

Regarding claim 31, Wettlaufer discloses the weight defining an opening that extends at least partially around the support (See Figure 5).

Regarding claim 32, Wettlaufer inherently discloses a center of gravity of the weight being offset from the opening.

Regarding claim 33, Wettlaufer discloses one of an indentation and a protrusion extending along the support, and another of the indentation and the protrusion being positioned within an opening defined in the weight, the indentation receiving the protrusion to limit movement of the weight around the support.

Regarding claim 35, Wettlaufer disclose the weight is interchangeable with one of a plurality of alternate weights being that elements 39 are shown of the same size and shape (See Page 2, line 12 through 26 Figure 4).

Regarding claim 38, Wettlaufer discloses the weight positioning system having a connector configured to connect the weight positioning system to the shell via the support (See Figure 4).

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Regarding claim 41, Wettlaufer discloses a golf club having an elongate shaft and a head positioned on an end of the shaft, the head comprising a face that provides a contact area for engaging a golf ball; and a weight positioning system that includes a support, a weight movably-connected to the support, the weight being independently movable along the support to vary a position of a center of gravity of the golf club head in first direction with respect to the face, and the weight being independently movable

around the support to vary the position of the center of gravity of the golf club head in a second direction with respect to the face, and a locking mechanism to secure a position of the weight relative to the support (See Figures 2, 4, and 5, and Page 2, lines 27 through 31).

Regarding claim 42, Wettlaufer discloses the golf club head includes a shell, and the face is a portion of the shell (See Figures 2).

Regarding claim 43, Wettlaufer discloses the shell defining an aperture, the weight positioning system being removable from an interior of the shell through the aperture (See Figure 4).

Regarding claim 45, Wettlaufer discloses the locking mechanism being a pair of locking rings that extend around the support (See Figure 4).

Regarding claim 46, Wettlaufer discloses the support and the locking rings include corresponding threads (See Figure 4).

Regarding claim 47, Wettlaufer inherently discloses a center of gravity pf the weight is offset from a centerline of the support.

Regarding claim 48, Wettlaufer discloses the weight defining an opening that extends at least partially around the support (See Figure 5).

Regarding claim 49, Wettlaufer inherently discloses a center of gravity of the weight being offset from the opening.

Regarding claim 50, Wettlaufer discloses one of an indentation and a protrusion extends along the support and another of the indentation and the protrusion is

positioned within the opening, the indentation receiving the protrusion to limit movement of the weight around the support.

Regarding claim 51, Wettlaufer discloses the weight is interchangeable with one of a plurality of alternate weights being that elements 39 are shown of the same size and shape (See Page 2, line 12 through 26 Figure 4).

Regarding claim 55, Wettlaufer discloses a golf club having an elongate shaft and a head positioned on an end of the shaft, the head comprising a face that provides a contact area for engaging a golf ball; and a weight positioning system that includes a support and a weight, the weight being movable in three dimensions with respect to the support to vary a position of a center of gravity of the golf club head with respect to the face (See Figures 2, 4, and 5, and Page 2, lines 27 through 31).

Regarding claim 56, Wettlaufer discloses the weight positioning system includes a locking mechanism that secures a position of the weight relative to the support (See Figure 4).

Regarding claim 57, Wettlaufer discloses the locking mechanism being a pair of locking rings that extend around the support (See Figure 4).

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Regarding claim 58, Wettlaufer inherently discloses a center of gravity of the weight is offset from a centerline of the support.

Regarding claim 59, Wettlaufer discloses the weight defining an opening that extends at least partially around the support (See Figure 5).

Regarding claim 60, Wettlaufer inherently discloses a center of gravity of the weight is offset from the opening.

Regarding claim 61, Wettlaufer discloses the weight is interchangeable with one of a plurality of alternate weights being that elements 39 are shown of the same size and shape (See Page 2, line 12 through 26 Figure 4).

Regarding claim 63, Wettlaufer discloses the weight positioning system is mounted on an exterior of the head (See Figure 4).

Regarding claim 64, Wettlaufer discloses a golf club head comprising a face that provides a contact area for engaging a golf ball; and a weight positioning system that includes a support and a weight, the weight being movable in three dimensions with respect to the support to vary a position of a center of gravity of the golf club head with respect to the face (See Figures 2, 4, and 5, and Page 2, lines 27 through 31).

Regarding claim 65, Wettlaufer discloses the golf club head includes a shell, and the face being a position of the shell (See Figure 2).

Regarding claim 66, Wettlaufer discloses the support being positioned in a substantially vertical orientation (See Figure 4).

Regarding claim 67, Wettlaufer discloses the weight positioning system including a locking mechanism that secures a position of the weight relative to the support (See Figure 4).

Regarding claim 68, Wettlaufer inherently discloses a center of gravity of the weight being offset from a centerline of the support.

Regarding claim 69, Wettlaufer discloses the weight is independently movable along the support and independently movable around the support (See Page 2, lines 27 through 31).

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2. Claims 1, 6, 7, 17, 21, 41, 54, 64, and 66-68 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Reimers (USPN 5683309).

Regarding claim 1, Reimers discloses a golf club head comprising a face 22 that provides a contact area for engaging a golf ball; and a weight positioning system 32 that includes a support 46 and a weight 48, the weight being movable along the support and around the support to vary a position of a center of gravity of the golf club head with respect to the face (See Figures 1 through 3 and Abstract).

Regarding claim 6, Reimers discloses the support is positioned in a substantially vertical orientation (See Figures through 3).

Regarding claim 7, Reimers discloses the weight positioning system including a locking mechanism that secures a position of the weight relative to the support (See Figures 1 through 3).

Regarding claim 17, Reimers discloses the weight positioning system having obtrusive marking to indicate the location of the weights (See Column 4, lines 26 through 45).

Regarding claim 21, Reimers discloses the weight positioning system is mounted on the exterior of the golf club head (See Figure 1).

Regarding claim 41, Reimers discloses a golf club having an elongate shaft and a head positioned on an end of the shaft, the head comprising a face that provides a contact area for engaging a golf ball; and a weight positioning system that includes a support, a weight movably-connected to the support, the weight being independently

movable along the support to vary a position of a center of gravity of the golf club head in first direction with respect to the face, and the weight being independently movable around the support to vary the position of the center of gravity of the golf club head in a second direction with respect to the face, and a locking mechanism to secure a position of the weight relative to the support (See Figures 1 through 3 and Abstract).

Regarding claim 54, Reimers discloses the weight positioning system is mounted on the exterior of the golf club head (See Figure 1).

Regarding claim 64, Reimers discloses a golf club head comprising a face that provides a contact area for engaging a golf ball; and a weight positioning system that includes a support and a weight, the weight being movable in three dimensions with respect to the support to vary a position of a center of gravity of the golf club head with respect to the face (See Abstract and Figures 1-3).

Regarding claim 66, Riemers discloses the support being positioned in a substantially vertical orientation (See Figures 1-3).

Regarding claim 67, Riemers discloses the weight positioning system including a locking mechanism that secures a position of the weight relative to the support (See Figures 1-3).

Regarding claim 68, Riemers inherently discloses a center of gravity of the weight being offset from a centerline of the support.

3. Claims 1-10, 13, 15, 16, 18, 24-29, 31, 33, 35, 38, 41-46, 48, 50, 51, 55-57, 59, 61, 64-67, and 69 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Glover (USPN 3610630).

Regarding claim 1, Glover discloses a golf club head comprising a face 16 that provides a contact area for engaging a golf ball; and a weight positioning system that includes a support 32 and a weight 34, the weight being movable along the support and around the support to vary a position of a center of gravity of the golf club head with respect to the face (See Figures 1 and 4).

Regarding claim 2, Glover discloses the golf club head including a shell, wherein the face is a portion of the shell (See Figures 1 and 4).

Regarding claim 3, Glover discloses the shell defines an aperture 25 wherein the weight positioning system is removable from an interior of the shell through the aperture (See Figure 4).

Regarding claim 4, Glover discloses the aperture being positioned in a lower area of the shell (See Figure 1).

Regarding claim 5, Glover discloses the weight positioning system including a connector 26 configured to connect the weight positioning system to the shell.

Regarding claim 6, Glover discloses the support is positioned in a substantially vertical orientation with respect to the rear surface (See Figure 4).

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Regarding claim 7, Glover discloses the weight positioning system including a locking mechanism 42 that secures a position of the weight relative to the support (See Figure 4).

Regarding claim 8, Glover discloses the locking mechanism being a pair of locking rings 42 that extend around the support (See Figure 4).

Regarding claim 9, Glover discloses the support and the locking rings including corresponding threads (See Figure 4).

Regarding claim 10, Glover discloses the locking rings positioned on opposite sides of the weight (See Figure 4).

Regarding claim 13, Glover discloses the weight defining an opening that extends at least partially around the support (See Figure 5).

Regarding claim 15, Glover discloses one of an indentation and a protrusion extending along the support, and another of the indentation and the protrusion 40 being positioned within the opening, the indentation receiving the protrusion to limit movement of the weight around the support (See Figure 5).

Regarding claim 16, Glover discloses the weight being independently movable along the support and independently movable around the support, wherein independently is defined as being individually moved (See Paragraph bridging columns 2 and 3).

Regarding claim 18, Glover implicitly discloses the weights being interchangeable with one of a plurality of alternative weights being that all of the weights are nuts of the same size (See Paragraph bridging columns 2 and 3 and Figure 4).

Regarding claim 24, Glover discloses a golf club head comprising a shell having a face 16 that provides a contact area for engaging a golf ball; and a weight positioning system substantially located on an interior of the shell, the weight positioning system including a support 32, and a weight 34 movably-connected to the support, the weight being movable along the support to vary a position of a center of gravity of the golf club

head in first direction with respect to the face, and the support being movable around the support to vary the position of the center of gravity of the golf club head in a second direction with respect to the face (See Figures 1 and 4, and Abstract).

Regarding claim 25, Glover discloses the weight being independently movable along the support and independently movable around the support, wherein independently is defined as being individually moved (See Paragraph bridging columns 2 and 3).

Regarding claim 26, Glover discloses the aperture 25 being positioned in a lower area of the shell and the weight positioning system being removable from the interior of the shell through the aperture (See Figure 1).

Regarding claim 27, Glover discloses the weight positioning system including a locking mechanism 42 that secures a position of the weight relative to the support (See Figure 4).

Regarding claim 28, Glover discloses the locking mechanism being a pair pf locking rings 42 that extend around the support (See Figure 4).

Regarding claim 29, Glover discloses the support and the locking rings including corresponding threads (See Figure 4).

Regarding claim 31, Glover discloses the weight defining an opening that extends at least partially around the support (See Figure 5).

Regarding claim 33, Glover discloses one of an indentation and a protrusion extending along the support, and another of the indentation and the protrusion 40 being

positioned within an opening defined in the weight, the indentation receiving the protrusion to limit movement of the weight around the support (See Figures 4 and 5).

Regarding claim 35, Glover discloses the weight is interchangeable with one of a plurality of alternate weights being that the weights are shown of the same size and shape (See Paragraph bridging columns 2 and 3).

Regarding claim 38, Glover discloses the weight positioning system having a connector 26 configured to connect the weight positioning system to the shell (See Figure 4).

Regarding claim 41, Glover discloses a golf club having an elongate shaft and a head positioned on an end of the shaft, the head comprising a face 16 that provides a contact area for engaging a golf ball; and a weight positioning system that includes a support 32, a weight 34 movably-connected to the support, the weight being independently movable along the support to vary a position of a center of gravity of the golf club head in first direction with respect to the face, and the weight being independently movable around the support to vary the position of the center of gravity of the golf club head in a second direction with respect to the face, and a locking mechanism 42 to secure a position of the weight relative to the support (See Figures 1, 4, and 5, and Abstract).

Regarding claim 42, Glover discloses the golf club head includes a shell, and the face is a portion of the shell (See Figures 4).

Regarding claim 43, Glover discloses the shell defining an aperture 25, the weight positioning system being removable from an interior of the shell through the aperture (See Figure 4).

Regarding claim 44, Glover discloses the aperture being positioned in a lower area of the shell (See Figure 1).

Regarding claim 45, Glover discloses the locking mechanism being a pair of locking rings 42 that extend around the support (See Figure 4).

Regarding claim 46, Glover discloses the support and the locking rings include corresponding threads (See Figure 4).

Regarding claim 48, Glover discloses the weight defining an opening that extends at least partially around the support (See Figure 5).

Regarding claim 50, Glover discloses one of an indentation and a protrusion extends along the support and another of the indentation and the protrusion 40 being positioned within the opening, the indentation receiving the protrusion to limit movement of the weight around the support.

Regarding claim 51, Glover discloses the weight is interchangeable with one of a plurality of alternate weights being that the weights are shown of the same size and shape (See Figure 4 and Paragraph bridging columns 2 and 3).

Regarding claim 55, Glover discloses a golf club having an elongate shaft and a head positioned on an end of the shaft, the head comprising a face 16 that provides a contact area for engaging a golf ball; and a weight positioning system that includes a support 32 and a weight 34, the weight being movable in three dimensions with respect

to the support to vary a position of a center of gravity of the golf club head with respect to the face (See Figures 1 and 4 and Abstract).

Regarding claim 56, Glover discloses the weight positioning system includes a locking mechanism 42 that secures a position of the weight relative to the support (See Figure 4).

Regarding claim 57, Glover discloses the locking mechanism being a pair of locking rings 42 that extend around the support (See Figure 4).

Regarding claim 59, Glover discloses the weight defining an opening that extends at least partially around the support (See Figure 5).

Regarding claim 61, Glover discloses the weight is interchangeable with one of a plurality of alternate weights being that the weights are shown of the same size and shape (See Paragraph bridging columns 2 and 3).

Regarding claim 64, Glover discloses a golf club head comprising a face 16 that provides a contact area for engaging a golf ball; and a weight positioning system that includes a support 32 and a weight 34, the weight being movable in three dimensions with respect to the support to vary a position of a center of gravity of the golf club head with respect to the face (See Figures 1 and 4 and Abstract).

Regarding claim 65, Glover discloses the golf club head includes a shell, and the face being a position of the shell (See Figure 4).

Regarding claim 66, Glover discloses the support being positioned in a substantially vertical orientation with respect to the rear surface 20 (See Figure 4).

Regarding claim 67, Glover discloses the weight positioning system including a locking mechanism 42 that secures a position of the weight relative to the support (See Figure 4).

Regarding claim 69, Glover discloses the weight is independently movable along the support and independently movable around the support, wherein independently is defined as being individually moved (See Paragraph bridging columns 2 and 3).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 12, 19, 20, 22, 23, 36, 37, 39, 40, 52, 53, 62, 70 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wettlaufer (USPN 2171383).

Regarding 12, 20, 37, and 53, Wettlaufer discloses that the weight may be replaced by weights having other designs to accommodate the same purpose, which would imply that the weights may be of different shapes. Furthermore, applicant does not state why it is critical to have the weight of an elliptical shape or having arms in order to attain the invention. One having ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to have the weight be of any shape, as taught by Wettlaufer, in order to impart proper balance to the club head.

Regarding claim 19, 22, 23, 36, 39, 40, 52, and 70, Wettlaufer discloses that the weight may be replaced by weights having other designs to accommodate the same

purpose. Furthermore, Wetlaufer refers to increasing the weight by adding more weights thereto. One having ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to have an alternate weight to have a different mass than the weight in order to increase or decrease the weight of the club head.

Regarding claim 62, Wetlaufer discloses that the weight may be replaced by weights having other designs to accommodate the same purpose, which would imply that the weights may be of different shapes or masses. Welaufre also refers to increasing the weight by adding more weights thereto. Furthermore, applicant does not state why it is critical to have the weight of and elliptical shape or having arms in order to attain the invention. One having ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to have the weight be of any shape or mass, as taught by Wetlaufer, in order to impart proper balance to the club head.

5. Claims 17 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wetlaufer (USPN 2171383) in view of Reimers (USPN 5683309).

Regarding claim 17 and 34, Wetlaufer does not disclose having a scale on the weight positioning system. Reimers discloses the weight positioning system having obtrusive marking to indicate the location of the weights (See Column 4, lines 26 through 45). One having ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to incorporate into Wetlaufer a scale, as taught by Reimers, in order to indicate the location of the weights.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alvin A. Hunter whose telephone number is 703-306-5693. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30AM to 4:00PM Eastern Time.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory Vidovich, can be reached on 703-3081513. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AAH  
Alvin A. Hunter, Jr.



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